

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5183

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XS

SUBJECT: UNEF: LETTER FROM EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO UN
SECRETARY GENERAL

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN
MINISTER ISMAIL FAHMY TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM WHICH
WAS RELEASED BY FAHMY AT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD 2100

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HOURS CAIRO TIME JULY 15. TRANSCRIPT OF FAHMY'S PRESS STATEMENT

FOLLOWS SEPTEL.

2. QUOTE:

DEAR MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL,

I AM WRITING TO YOU IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESENT DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

YOU WILL RECALL THAT, IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE OCTOBER 1973
ARMED CONFLICT, THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTED ITS RESOLUTION 338
OF 22 OCTOBER 1973, CALLING UPON THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT TO CEASE
ALL FIRING AND TERMINATE ALL MILITARY ACTIVITY. FURTHERMORE, IT
CALLED UPON THE PARTIES TO START IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CEASE-
FIRE, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242, OF 22
NOVEMBER 1967 IN ALL OF ITS PARTS. IN ADDITION, THE COUNCIL DECIDED,
IN ITS RES. 336, THAT IMMEDIATELY, AND CONCURRENTLY WITH THE
CEASE FIRE, NEGOTIATIONS SHALL START BETWEEN
THE PARTIES CONCERNED UNDER APPROPRIATE AUSPICES, AIMED AT
ESTABLISHING A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

THE COUNCIL FURTHER DECIDED, BY ITS RESOLUTION 340 OF 25 OCTOBER
1973 TO SET UP, UNDER ITS AUTHORITY, A UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY
FORCE. IT SUBSEQUENTLY DECIDED, BY RESOLUTION 341 OF 27 OCTOBER
1973, THAT THE FORCE BE ESTABLISHED FOR AN INITIAL PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS.

IN IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 338, THE FIRST PHASE OF THE
PEACE CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST WAS CONVENED IN GENEVA IN DECEM-
BER 1973 UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS. YOU WERE OF THE
VIEW THAT THE DISENGAGEMENT OF EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES IS ONLY
A FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM AND
THAT THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE UNEF IS ESSENTIAL, NOT ONLY
FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PRESENT QUIET IN THE EGYPT-ISRAEL
SECTOR, BUT ALSO TO ASSIST, IF REQUIRED, IN FURTHER EFFORTS FOR
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
THE COUNCIL CONCURRED WITH YOUR OPINION AND DECIDED, BY ITS
RESOLUTION 246(1974), TO EXTEND THE MANDATE OF THE FORCE FOR A
FURTHER PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS.

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THEN THE COUNCIL EXTENDED THE MANDATE OF THE UNEF FOR AN ADDITIONAL
PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS BY RESOLUTION 362 OF 23 OCTOBER 1974, BUT NOTED
THAT "THE OVERALL SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL REMAIN FUNDAMENT-
ALLY UNSTABLE AS LONG AS THE UNDERLYING PROBLEMS ARE UNRESOLVED."

CONSEQUENTLY, EFFORTS WERE DEPLOYED DURING THE MONTHS OF FEBRUARY
AND MARCH 1975 TO ACHIEVE A FURTHER DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WHICH WAS
NECESSARY AS AN ADDITIONAL MEASURE DESIGNED TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE

GENEVA CONFERENCE, WHERE SUBSTANTIAL ISSUES CONDUCTIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST COULD BE DEALT WITH. NONTHELESS, DUE TO ISRAEL'S POLICY OF INTRANSIGENCE AND PROCRASTINATION, THOSE EFFORTS FAILED.

HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO DEFUSE THE EXPLOSIVE SITUATION, AND IN CONTRAST TO ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE, PRESIDENT SADAT DECIDED TO REOPEN THE SUEZ CANAL FOR INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION AND EMBARKED UPON A MAJOR PROGRAMME FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CITIES IN THE SUEZ CANAL ZONE.

SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND CITIZENS OF THE AREA HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES. ALL THESE MAJOR DECISIONS WERE, BEYOND ANY DOUBT, PRACTICAL STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT TO STIMULATE THE PROCESS OF PEACE.

MOREOVER, THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO RENEW THE MANDATE OF THE UNEF FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS IN ORDER TO AFFORD PEACE EFFORTS EVERY POSSIBLE CHANCE.

HOWEVER, IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE OUTSET THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT, IN ACCEPTING RESOLUTION 340(1973) AND IN DECLARING ITS READINESS TO EXTEND HER COOPERATION IN THIS RESPECT, HAS UNDERLINED THE TEMPORARY NATURE OF THE FORCE AND ITS FUNCTIONS AS A FIRST STEP IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

ALTHOUGH THIS WAS THE UNDERLYING CONCEPT IN ALL THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ESTABLISHING AND RENEWING THE MANDATE OF THE FORCE, ISRAEL HAS PROFITED FROM THE RELATIVE PREVAILING "QUIET" TO FURTHER ITS OCCUPATION RATHER THAN TO ASSIST THE EFFORTS AIMING AT ACHIEVING A LASTING PEACE.

IT MUST BE EMPHASIZED, THEREFORE, THAT, WITH NO FURTHER STEPS
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TAKEN TOWARD PEACE, EGYPT CANNOT ADHERE TO THE ISRAELI INTERPRETATION OF THE RAISON D'ETRE OF THE UNEF.

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AN EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE FORCE BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD DEFEAT THE VERY PURPOSES THE COUNCIL ENVISAGED IN ESTABLISHING THE FORCE, SINCE THE QUIET IS BEING TRANSFORMED INTO STAGNATION AND, CONSEQUENTLY, THE PERPETUATION OF THE OCCUPATION.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR EGYPT TO CONSENT TO ANY MEASURE THAT COULD LEAD TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE OCCUPATION OF ITS TERRITORY.

WHILE EGYPT DOES NOT CONSENT TO FURTHER RENEW THE MANDATE OF UNEF, SHE IS NOT AGAINST THE PROPER USE OF THE FORCE. EGYPT OBJECTS

TO THE USE OF THE FORCE AND ITS PRESENCE BY ISRAEL AS A MEANS TO
MAINTAIN THE STATE OF "NOR WAR NO PEACE" AND THE PERPETUATION OF THE
OCCUPATION OF EGYPTIAN TERRITORY IN DEFIANCE OF THE PURPOSES AND
PRINCIPLES OF THE U.N. CHARTER AND ACCEPTED NORMS OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW.

EGYPT, HOWEVER, DOES NOT PREVENT THE COUNCIL FROM ACTING IN
CONFORMITY WITH ITS PREROGATIVES UNDER U.N. CHARTER SO THAT ISRAEL
DOES NOT MISINTERPRET EITHER THE PHYSICAL PRESENCE OR THE PHILOSOPHY
BEHIND THE UNEF, ESTABLISHED TO SERVE THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THIS
STRATEGIC AND HIGHLY SENSITIVE AREA.

I REQUEST THAT THIS LETTER BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE
PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

PLEASE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST
CONSIDERATION.

ISMAIL FAHMY

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

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MAESTRONE

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